

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-519-C - ORDER NO. 98-153
FEBRUARY 26, 1998

IN RE:	Application of Communications Central, Inc.)	ORDER
	and Davel Communications Group, Inc. for)	GRANTING
	Approval of Corporate Acquisition, Merger,)	APPLICATION
	and Related Transactions.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on an Application filed by Communications Central, Inc. (CCI) and Davel Communications Group, Inc. (Davel)(together, the Companies) for approval of the transfer of control of CCI and its assets used and useful in the provision of telecommunications service to Davel through the merger of CCI with Panther Acquisition Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Davel.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed the Companies to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of the Companies' Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. The Companies complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed.

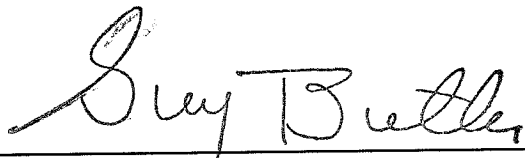
Accordingly, the Companies request that we proceed on this matter using the Commission meeting as the required due hearing under S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-310 (Supp. 1997). The verified testimony of Barry E. Selvidge, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel of CCI was filed with this Commission. We grant this request.

Selvedge testified that the Companies request that the Commission approve the transfer of control of CCI's "used and useful" assets in the provision of telecommunications service in South Carolina, pursuant to the merger of CCI with Panther Acquisition Corporation (Panther), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Davel. Another such subsidiary, Telaleasing Enterprises, Inc. (Telaleasing), provides payphone services in South Carolina, along with resale services.

According to Selvedge, no present authority with this Commission would have to be modified in order to effectuate the transaction. CCI will continue to provide service under the authority granted in Order No. 86-413, and Telaleasing will continue to provide service under the authority of Order No. 92-540 and Order No. 94-664. Selvidge further states that, by granting the Application, the Commission will authorize a qualified payphone service provider to improve its service offering to the public. Selvidge states that a combined Davel/CCI enterprise will have significant operational, financial and marketing advantages, and will allow shared management information and other support systems and greater financial resources. Also improved service and economies of scale will occur. Selvidge states his belief that the granting of the application is in the public interest.

We have examined this matter, and conclude, after consideration, that the application should be granted, as filed, as being in the public interest. Clearly, economies of scale will result from the combined companies. Service offerings will be improved, and significant operational, financial, and marketing advantages will result. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)